UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

JAMES JOSEPH JULUKE, JR., an individual, Plaintiff, v. EAST LA HOME IMPROVEMENT LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, Defendant.	)))))))))))	Case No.: 3:16-cv-02521

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, JAMES JOSEPH JULUKE, JR. through his undersigned counsel, hereby files this Complaint and sues EAST LA HOME IMPROVEMENT LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, for injunctive relief, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*, ("AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT" or "ADA") and damages pursuant to Chapter 121 of the Texas Human Resources Code, Tex. Hum. Res. Code Ann. § 121.001 *et seq.*, (Chapter 121) and alleges:

JURISDICTION AND PARTIES

1. This is an action for declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181, *et seq.*, (the "ADA"), and Tex. Hum. Res. Code Ann. § 121.001 *et seq*. This Court is vested with original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the subject matter of all other claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367(a).

2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b), because the

Defendant's Property, which is the subject of this action, is located in Dallas County, Texas.

3. Plaintiff, JAMES JOSEPH JULUKE, JR. (hereinafter referred to as "MR. JULUKE" or "Plaintiff"), is a resident of the State of Texas in Dallas County.

4. MR. JULUKE is a qualified individual with a disability under the ADA. In 1994, MR. JULUKE suffered an injury to his spinal cord resulting in trauma to his T-10 vertebrae. MR. JULUKE is a paraplegic and is disabled.

5. MR. JULUKE's disability, at all times material hereto, impairs his ability to walk, stand and bend, all major life activities, and requires him to use a wheelchair to ambulate.

6. Defendant, EAST LA HOME IMPROVEMENT LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant"), is registered to do business in the State of Texas. Upon information and belief, Defendant is the owner, lessor and/or operator of the real property and improvements which are the subject of this action, to wit: the "Property," generally located at 9203 Skillman St, Dallas, TX 75243.

7. All events giving rise to this lawsuit occurred in the Northern District of Texas.

COUNT I
(VIOLATION OF TITLE III OF THE ADA)

8. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates into this cause of action each and every allegation contained in the previous paragraphs of this Complaint.

9. The Property, a shopping center, is open to the public and provides goods and services to the public.

10. Plaintiff visited the Property and attempted to utilize the goods and services offered at the Property and plans to return to the Property in the near future.

11. During his visit, MR. JULUKE experienced serious difficulty accessing the goods

and utilizing the services therein due to the architectural barriers discussed in this Complaint.

12. MR. JULUKE continues to desire to visit the Property, but fears that he will again encounter serious difficulty and safety hazards due to the barriers discussed herein which still exist.

13. Defendant has discriminated, and continue to discriminate, against Plaintiff in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq*. and 28 C.F.R. § 36.302 *et seq*. by excluding and/or denying Plaintiff the benefits of the goods and services located on the Property by failing to provide and/or correct the following barriers to access which Plaintiff personally observed, encountered, and which hindered his access:

A. Plaintiff encountered inaccessible parking at the designated accessible parking spots due lack of proper signage, lack of access aisles, and improper placement of ramps in access aisles;

B. Plaintiff encountered inaccessible ramps at the Property due to excessive slopes; and

C. Plaintiff encountered inaccessible routes throughout the Property due to excessive slopes and lack of hand rails.

14. Upon information and belief, there are other current violations of the ADA and the ADA Accessibility Guidelines ("ADAAG") at the Property, and only after a full inspection is performed by the Plaintiff or Plaintiff's representatives can all said barriers be identified.

15. To date, the readily achievable barriers and other violations of the ADA still exist and have not been remedied or altered in such a way as to effectuate compliance with the provisions of the ADA.

16. Independent of his intent to return as a patron to the Property, Plaintiff

additionally intends to return to the Property as an ADA tester to determine whether the barriers to access stated herein have been remedied.

17. Removal of the barriers to access located on the Property is readily achievable, structurally feasible and easily accomplishable without placing an undue burden on Defendant.

18. Removal of the barriers to access located on the Property would allow Plaintiff to fully utilize the goods and services located therein.

19. The Plaintiff has been obligated to retain undersigned counsel for the filing and prosecution of this action. Plaintiff is entitled to have his reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses paid by Defendant.

COUNT II
(VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 121 OF THE TEXAS HUMAN RIGHTS CODE)

20. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates into this cause of action each and every allegation contained in the previous paragraphs of this Complaint.

21. Chapter 121 specifically addresses the ability of people with disabilities to integrate fully into society. Chapter 121 states the policy of Texas "is to encourage and enable persons with disabilities to participate fully in the social and economic life of the state, to achieve maximum personal independence, to become gainfully employed, and to otherwise fully enjoy and use all public facilities available within the state." Tex. Hum. Res. Code Ann. §121.001.

22. Chapter 121.003 (d) (1) prohibits any failure to comply with Article 9102 of the Texas Civil Statues, which is identical to the federal regulations controlling the ADA known as the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

23. Further, each violation of Chapter 121.004(b) provides for a conclusive

presumption of damages of least $300 to the person with a disability.

24. Defendant's barriers to access as discussed herein have denied and continue to deny, the Plaintiff the opportunity to equally participate in or benefit from the goods, services, and accommodations afforded to other individuals, thus violating Chapter 121.Tex. Hum. Res. Code Ann, § 121.001, and entitling Plaintiff to injunctive and statutory damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant and requests the following injunctive and declaratory relief:

A. That the Court declare that the Property owned, leased, and/or operated by Defendant is in violation of the ADA;

B. That the Court enter an Order directing Defendant to alter its facilities to make them accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the full extent required by Title III of the ADA;

C. That the Court enter an Order directing Defendant to evaluate and neutralize its policies and procedures towards persons with disabilities for such reasonable time so as to allow Defendant to undertake and complete corrective procedures;

D. That the Court award reasonable attorneys' fees, costs (including expert fees), and other expenses of suit, to the Plaintiff; and

E. That this Court issue a Declaratory Judgment that the Defendant has violated the Chapter 121 of the Texas Human Resources Code.

F. That this Court orders the Defendant to alter the aforesaid premises to make such facilities accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the Chapter 121 of the Texas Human Resources Code.

G. That this Court award Plaintiff statutory damages pursuant to Chapter 121 of the Texas Human Resource Code.

H. That this Court award Plaintiff such other additional and proper relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: */s/ Louis I. Mussman*

Louis I. Mussman
Attorney-in-charge
Florida Bar No. 597155
N.D. TX No. 597155FL
Ku & Mussman, P.A.
6001 NW 153rd Street, Suite 100
Miami Lakes, FL 33014
Tel: (305) 891-1322
Fax: (305) 891-4512
Louis@KuMussman.com

and

Seth P. Crosland
Local Counsel
Texas Bar No.: 24069551
Brandy Austin Law Firm, PLLC
2404 Roosevelt Drive
Arlington, Texas 76016
Tel: (817) 841-9906
Fax: (817) 484-0280
seth@brandyaustinlaw.com